

304 CMR: DIVISION OF FORESTS AND PARKS

304 CMR 7.00: MANAGEMENT PLANS AND MASSACHUSETTS WILDLANDS

Section

7.01: Authority and Purpose

7.02: Management Plans

7.03: Massachusetts Wildlands

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7.01: Authority and Purpose

(1) The Commissioner of the Department of ~~Environmental Management Conservation and Recreation~~ ("Commissioner" and "~~DCREM~~") promulgates 304 CMR 7.00 pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 1, ~~and 2F;~~ ~~M.G.L. c. 21, § 4A;~~ and M.G.L. c. 132A, § 7.

(2) The purpose of 304 CMR 7.00 is to establish procedures for the ~~Stewardship Council~~~~Board of Environmental Management~~ and the Commissioner to prepare, adopt and revise official management plans for state reservations, parks and forests and to designate Massachusetts Wildlands.

7.02: Management Plans

For each state reservation, park, and forest, ~~DEM-DCR~~ shall follow a management planning process which shall produce the following components:

- (a) a description of the land's unique resources;
- (b) a discussion of the land's potential use;
- (c) land stewardship zoning analysis; and
- (d) action recommendations

Each Management Plan shall have public participation in its development, ~~with;~~ review and approval by the ~~Board of Environmental Management~~~~Stewardship Council~~.

7.03: Massachusetts Wildlands

(1) Massachusetts Wildlands means portions of ~~DEM-DCR~~ properties which are designated as either Representative Natural Areas or Backcountry.

(2) Representative Natural Area ("~~RNA~~") means a natural area defined by noticeable boundaries which exemplify a native or naturalized species or community with a high level of integrity and minimal disturbance. RNA's may be nominated from lands which are under ~~DEM DCR~~ ~~conservation~~ ~~R~~restrictions.

(3) Backcountry Area means a natural area located in the more remote portions of ~~DEM-DCR~~ properties which provide existing opportunities for hiking and canoeing in a wild area.

(4) Area Management Summary ("~~AMS~~") means the abstract of the procedures utilized to manage Wildlands. Each AMS will include recreation and resource management procedure,

policy and regulation as well as area maps and a description of existing and proposed research.

7.04: Management of Massachusetts Wildlands

(1) ~~DEM-DCR~~ shall prepare an Area Management Summary to manage an R.N.A. or Backcountry Area.

(2) The following activities are not permitted within Massachusetts Wildlands: open fires; motorized trail use; destruction or collection of vegetation; geological materials; or wildlife species; and/or aquatic organisms. Mountain bikes are not- permitted in RNA's or in the ~~b~~Backcountry ~~a~~Areas: the Hooper, Range Ridgetops, Alander Mtn. Such restrictions shall not be interpreted to include prohibition of hunting, fishing and trapping at ~~DEM-DCR~~ properties where those activities are lawfully permitted, or ~~Division-DCR~~ operations necessary to enhance public access and safety.

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7.04: continued

(3) With the approval of the ~~Board of Environmental management~~Stewardship Council, the Commissioner can remove the Massachusetts Wildlands designation from an area if one or more of the following conditions occurs:

- (a) Significant damage/change that affects the integrity of the ecosystem; or
- (b) another site can better serve the needs of the Massachusetts Wildlands program.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

304 CMR 7.00: M.G.L. c. 21, § ~~1, 2F-4A~~; c. 132A, § 7.